

First record of the Opilione *Dicranopalpus ramosus* (Simon, 1909) in Glasgow

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In September 2007 an unusual harvestman was found on the garage wall of MR in Mosspark, Glasgow. It was soon identified as a female *Dicranopalpus ramosus* (Simon, 1909); identification is fairly easy due to the forked pedipalps and unusual resting posture of having its long legs stretched out perpendicular to its body. No further specimens were found over the subsequent weeks. There had been no recent new plantings or new fixtures in the garden so there was no obvious origin.

It has been said that it prefers woody plants and damp areas; the adults are generally active in autumn and into early winter. In many areas where it has been observed further south it has been in quite high numbers (Hillyard, 1999).

D. ramosus is a southern species that has been slowly making its way north over the last few decades. First described from Morocco in 1909 as *Dicranochirus ramosus* (Hillyard, 1999) the species was first recorded in the UK in Bournemouth in 1957 (Sankey & Savory, 1974) and through the 1960s was only found on the south coast. In the 1970s and 1980s it spread over the south of England reaching as far north as Leicester by 1989. It reached south-east Ireland in 1994 and spread to north Wales and north-west England throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s (NBN Gateway, 2008). The first Scottish record was from Edinburgh in 2000 (Hillyard, 2000) and now it has been found in Glasgow in 2007.

The specimen is in Glasgow Museum collections numbered Z.2007.67.

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Rapid expansion of a stand of common club-rush at the Balmaha Marshes, Loch Lomond

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The first published mention of flowering plants of the water's edge at Balmaha (VC.86) in the south-east corner of Loch Lomond followed an excursion by the Natural History Society of Glasgow on 8 July 1893 (Anon, 1897). More than a century later, the district has lost none of its appeal to field botanists, in particular the Balmaha Marshes (NS 425903) – a loch-side wet meadow which is in the process of being fragmented into a patchwork of shallow lagoons and small islands resulting from wave erosion during winter storms.



Fig. 1. Two decades of expansion by a stand of common club-rush at the Balmaha Marshes, Loch Lomond (Photographs: John Mitchell). **(top)** 24 July 1987 **(bottom)** 23 July 2007.

Over the years the Balmaha Marshes have produced an impressive list of nationally rare and locally uncommon species, including small water-pepper *Persicaria minus*, Loch Lomond dock *Rumex aquaticus*, eight-stamened waterwort *Elatine hydropiper*, awlwort *Subularia aquatica*, tufted